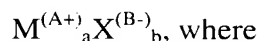


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing polyurethanes comprising reacting at least one polyisocyanate with at least one compound containing at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms comprises at least one polyether alcohol prepared by addition of alkylene oxides onto H-functional initiator substances by means of multimetal cyanide catalysis and wherein the reaction of the alkylene oxides onto the H-functional initiator substances is carried out in the presence of at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from at least one of  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ , and  $Ba^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from at least one of  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the ~~compound~~ metal salt is electrically neutral.

2. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt  $M^{(A+)}_a X^{(B-)}_b$  is selected such that:

$M^{(A+)} = Li^+, Na^+, K^+, Mg^{2+}, \text{ or } Ca^{2+}$ , and

$X^{(B-)} = F^-, Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, NO_3^-, HCO_3^-, CO_3^{2-}, HSO_4^-, SO_4^{2-}, H_2PO_4^-, HPO_4^{2-}, PO_4^{3-}, (C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-, \text{ or } (C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$

and their mixed salts and mixtures, where

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the ~~compound~~ metal salt is electrically neutral.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the metal salt is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 ppm, based on the compound having at least two active hydrogen atoms.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

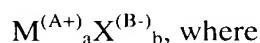
7. (Previously Presented) A flexible polyurethane foam produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in claims 1 or 2.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Please add the following claims:

9. (New) A process for producing polyurethanes comprising reacting at least one polyisocyanate with at least one compound containing at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms comprises at least one polyether alcohol prepared by addition of alkylene

oxides onto H-functional initiator substances by means of multimetal cyanide catalysis and wherein the reaction of the polyisocyanate and the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms is carried out in the presence of at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from at least one of  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ , and  $Ba^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from at least one of  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the metal salt is electrically neutral and is in solution in the reaction of the polyisocyanate and the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms.

10. (New) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal salt  $M^{(A+)}_a X^{(B-)}_b$  is selected such that:

$M^{(A+)} = Li^+, Na^+, K^+, Mg^{2+}, \text{ or } Ca^{2+}$ , and

$X^{(B-)} = F^-, Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, NO_3^-, HCO_3^-, CO_3^{2-}, HSO_4^-, SO_4^{2-}, H_2PO_4^-, HPO_4^{2-}, PO_4^{3-}, (C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-, \text{ or } (C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$

and their mixed salts and mixtures, where

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the metal salt is electrically neutral.

11. (New) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal salt is dissolved in the compound having at least two active hydrogen atoms such that the metal salt is in solution in the reaction of the polyisocyanate and the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms.

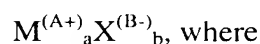
12. (New) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal salt is dissolved in the polyisocyanate such that the metal salt is in solution in the reaction of the polyisocyanate and the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms.

13. (New) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal salt is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 ppm, based on the compound having at least two active hydrogen atoms.

14. (New) A polyurethane produced according to the process as claimed in claim 9.

15. (New) A flexible polyurethane foam produced according to the process as claimed in claim 9.

16. (New) A polyether alcohol comprising the reaction product of H-functional compounds with alkylene oxides using multimetal cyanides as catalysts comprising at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from at least one of  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ , and  $Ba^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from at least one of  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the metal salt is electrically neutral and is dissolved in the polyether alcohol.